

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9546

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2963

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: PRG EXIT PERMITS

REF: PARIS 07690

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RAISED IN REFTEL CONCERNING
LIKELIHOOD OF SAIGON GRANTING EXIT PERMITS TO VIETNAMESE,
WE HAVE IMPRESSION, BASED UPON INTERVIEWS WITH HONG KONG/
CHOLON CHINESE WHO HAVE KEEN INTEREST IN THIS AREA OF
ACTIVITY, THAT PERSONS WITH FOREIGN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
(HONG KONG PASSPORT OR CI, FRENCH, TAIWAN, FILIPINO OR
EVEN CAMBODIAN (LON NOL) PASSPORTS) OR VISAS (HONG KONG
ENTRY VISA) HAVE SOME POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING SAIGON EXIT
VISAS. PAYMENTS TO OFFICIALS IN SUCH CASES HAVE AT TIMES
BEEN REPORTED.

2. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD RUMOR THAT IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT
TO DEPART AFTER VIETNAMESE REUNIFICATION BUT KNOW OF NO
SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THIS MIGHT BE SO.
SAIGON OFFICIALS WHO ISSUE EXIT VISAS PRESUMABLY WILL NOT
BE CHANGED AS A RESULT OF REUNIFICATION AND EXIT OF
FOREIGNERS AND/OR DEPENDENTS CAN BOTH DECREASE VIETNAMESE
UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH IS CHRONIC PROBLEM, AND OPEN POSSI-
BILITY OF REMITTANCES FROM ABROAD, WHICH NEW VIETNAMESE
AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE ENCOURAGING.

3. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT VIETNAMESE WILL CONSIDER EXIT
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VISAS FOR DEPENDENTS DESTINED FOR "FREINDLY COUNTRIES" SUCH

AS FRANCE OR HONG KONG, FRENCH PROPOSAL (PARA 1 REFTTEL) OF
GIVING ENTRY VISA TO APPLICANTS WHO HAVE VIETNAMESE EXIT
VISA SEEMS TO US IMPRACTICAL SINCE SAIGON AUTHORITIES
APPEAR TO INSIST ON ACCEPTANCE OF TRAVELER BY FOREIGN
COUNTRY PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF EXIT VISA.
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